

Stoughton Area School District

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

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QA-18003

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F. H. W. A. Docket No. MG-93-12
Room 4232 H. C. C. 10
Office of Chief Counsel
Federal Highways Administration
400 Seventh St., S. W.
Washington, DC 20590

FHWA-97-2199-39

Please exempt school bus drivers from FEDERAL definition of standards for CDL-training.

There is no more reason to have FEDERAL regulation of training for school bus drivers than for passenger car drivers. School bussing is an entirely different industry than long-haul or coast-to-coast bussing or trucking. As a group, school bus drivers do very little interstate driving. It is an extremely rare school bus driver who would drive more than 100 miles over a state line once a year on a field trip.

Considering the number of passenger miles travelled annually, there is an admirable record of school bus safety. Why super-impose Federal mandates when present state programs are working?

School Bus driving is such a specialized field that training should relate the driving of heavy vehicles to individual state laws relating to student transportation. It is the officials of each state who have the best knowledge and understanding of what is needed to deal with the environmental, demographic, and legal challenges of their specific state.

Therefore, each state should continue to be responsible for developing and enforcing it's own standards of school bus driver training.

Sincerely,

David Handt

David Handt, Transportation Supervisor
Stoughton Area School District

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